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Letter dated 13 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the organization by the Russian Federation of so-called "regional elections" in the temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 (a) of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/72/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the organization by the Russian Federation of so-called "regional elections" in the temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol

Ukraine strongly condemns the organization by the Russian Federation on 10 September 2017 in the territory of the temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol (Autonomous Republic of Crimea) illegal "elections of the governor", "by-election of a deputy of the legislative assembly of the city of Sevastopol", as well as "by-election of deputies of certain municipalities" of this city.

We consider such actions by the Kremlin as a continuation of gross violations by the Russian Federation of state sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

We emphasize that any steps aimed at legitimizing the illegal occupation of part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine have no legal consequences regarding the constitutionally assigned status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as part of the territory of Ukraine.

Holding of illegal elections in the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation is yet another violation of basic norms and principles of international law, enshrined in the UN Charter as well as UN General Assembly Resolution "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" A/RES/68/262 of 27 March 2017, UN General Assembly Resolution "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)" A/RES/71/205 of 19 December 2016, the 1975 CSCE Helsinki Final Act, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, obligations of the Russian Federation under multilateral and bilateral international treaties.

The results of these so called "elections" are null and void. The illegal status of any official or body, elected or appointed in confrontation of the legislation of Ukraine, as well as any acts issued by such officials or bodies, is defined by article 9 of the Law of Ukraine "On Securing the Rights and Freedoms of Citizens and the Legal Regime on the Temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine".

We underline that all persons, who participated in preparation and holding of illegal elections on the sovereign territory of Ukraine will be held accountable according to the legislation of Ukraine.

Ukraine calls upon all foreign states and international organizations to state clearly about their non-recognition of so called elections in the temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol, to maintain no contacts with members of local occupation administration neither at bilateral level, nor within multilateral forums, and to step up consolidated pressure on the Russian Federation, including by expanding sanctions with the purpose of making it to return into the international legal field, to stop its illegal occupation of a part of Ukraine's sovereign territory, to cease carrying out acts of armed aggression in Donbas, and to withdraw occupation troops from the territory of our state.